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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled.
2. (Currently amended) The method of de-icing according to claim 4, wherein the apparatus comprises a phase shifting transformer provided with a tap changer for adjusting the angular offset.
3. (Previously presented) The method of de-icing according to claim 2, wherein the apparatus comprises a capacitor in parallel with the phase shifting transformer.
4. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of de-icing ~~according to claim 4~~, energized electric lines of an alternating current voltage distribution or transmission network comprising the steps of:
 - providing an apparatus capable of producing an adjustable angular offset between voltages at its terminals;
 - selecting segments of the energized electrical lines to be de-iced;
 - connecting the segments to form a loop by selectively operating circuit breakers of the network;
 - connecting the apparatus in series with the segments of the loop to be de-iced;
 - activating the apparatus;
 - adjusting the angular offset of the apparatus to impose an increase in current flowing in at least one of the segments of the loop, thus causing the de-icing of said at least one of the segments of the loop wherein the apparatus further comprises a circuit breaker and further comprising the steps of:
 - measuring a phase displacement at the terminals of the apparatus;
 - adjusting an internal angle of the apparatus to a same value of the phase displacement measured; and